



Drug Court Foundation of Orange County

A Project of NCADD-OC

# DCFocus

Volume 2, Issue 1

September 2005

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## **My Life After Drug Court - Paul Brown**

In case any of you were wondering if there is life after Drug Court, rest assured there is and it is truly amazing. The fun is just getting started!

After nearly 28 years of drinking and using, my life was a train wreck. Multiple D.U.I.'S, several misdemeanor possessions, and 2 felony cocaine charge's left me hopeless and destitute, facing 3 years in prison and out of answers. The O.C. Drug Court Program was offered and seemed the only option to remain out of prison. At 3 weeks sober I worked the 1<sup>st</sup> Step with my sponsor and had my moment of clarity. I admitted to my innermost self and came to fully believe that I am an alcoholic, and at that moment the desire and obsession to drink and use was removed. It felt as though the weight of the world had been lifted from my shoulders and I was truly free.

Drug Court, my 12 Step

Program, and work kept me very busy and my life started to get better almost instantly. When my graduation date approached, I was filled with excitement and anticipation. September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002 with many close friends in attendance, I graduated on time and the sweetest phrase was uttered, **CASE DISMISSED!**

My life today is absolutely amazing; many dreams that once were unattainable due to my disease have been realized. My career is on track and I am finally able to enjoy some of the finer things of life. Vacations used to be only pipe dreams, but today I am able to take trips with my friends and I do so often. Today life is in session and I do not want to miss it.

Having made all my financial amends and taken steps to repair my damaged credit by taking direction from sober friends who

have more experience than I, the most impossible dream of all is coming true. September 16<sup>th</sup>, three years and eleven days since graduation, escrow will close and I will own my first home. This just absolutely blows me away because before I got sober it was never a possibility. Today it is **REALITY.**

The Drug Court Program gave me the best opportunity to change my life and sobriety is the greatest gift I have ever received. Much of my free time is spent giving back what was so freely given to me. I am an Advisory Board member of the Drug Court Foundation, Alumni member, involved with fund raising for a women's free detox center, and very active with my 12 Step Program.

I am so grateful for the Drug Court Program and what it has done for me, I will never be able to fully repay what I have received, but I will continue to try.

## **Judge's Corner - Judge Jamoa Moberly**

Newport Harbor Justice Center

As my oldest child goes off to college, I muse on how similar our drug court is to family. Will he stay as strong without our day to day support? Will he make good choices? I feel this way each time one of our drug court participants graduates. This summer I watched a nest



under our eaves as a young bird ventured out only to clumsily glide to the pavement below. My husband fought the urge to help the bird stay in flight while my mind projected to August when we would be watching our son try to fly.

Would we try to break his fall, would he be strong enough to fly on his own, would he return? Often I am amazed by the continued growth and strength our participants show. Selfishly, this is one of the reasons we encourage an alumni group. Like parents, we have invested time, love and energy into our partici-

**Judge's Corner - Judge Jamoa Moberly**

Continued.

pants and like older siblings, we hope they will come back to serve as mentors and role models for the younger siblings as well as for us to enjoy their company. As parents, we are constantly reminded to apply a single standard just as we do in drug court. The results are beyond our expectations. Just recently I was reminded that although appearing similar, not all participants experience the Drug Court program the same. When two women, both successful participants volunteered to talk to new women awaiting residential programs in custody, I was surprised but gratified by their different candid impressions. One felt bonded with drug court, was effusive in sharing and had found a home here with friends rather Mary Poppins like. The other counseled the women to just do the program, not worry if they made any friends, not worry about what others were or were not doing but to do the program. Both agreed that the program works. If you work the program, it will work for you. Much like piano lessons and practice rules for our kids, they often complained but both tell me that they are so grateful we made them do it. Drug Court is filled with such moments like wing flutters in the nest. This is why I am a Drug Court judge and I could not do it without our team.

## Congratulations Graduates!

**Drug Court Graduation's****January 2004-December 2004**

Central Justice Center	40
West Justice Center	17

## Services & Events

**Services:**

LensCrafters Gift of Sight Program  
City Bus Passes  
Dental Services-Dr. Jay Bauman  
Friends of Drug Court Scholarship Program-Residential and Sober Living donations  
Women Helping Women

**Past Events:**

South Court Alumni BBQ-August 22nd  
County-wide Alumni Wild Rivers August 28th  
Outrigger Back Bay trips July 3rd and August 7th.

**New Services Available:**

Nicotine Anonymous Meeting  
Sundays 5:00 pm  
22821 Lake Forest Drive, Suite 112  
Lake Forest

Drug Court Family Support Group  
Saturday, September 24, 2005  
22471 Aspan Street, Lake Forest  
2:00 - 3:00 pm

The families are most affected by the disease of alcoholism and/or addiction. Bring your families and help them find recovery for themselves. Please join us!

### Upcoming Cultural Event: County-wide Getty Trip



Join The Getty Trip October 9, 2005

A Chance To Have A Guided Tour Of The  
Getty Museum.

## Expressions of Recovery

No one exactly knows  
Exactly how emotion unhands the body  
Or if it is the body letting  
Like a wink  
What moves us  
To cross  
I have never quite seen

The moon so unusually  
In the blink of another's orbit  
So between us there is partial shadow  
And also  
part glow  
I have never  
quite seen  
Which will  
be once  
The gaits are clear



*Anonymous*

Harbor Justice Center, Laguna Niguel	15	Harbor Justice Center, Laguna Niguel	6
North Justice Center	29	Harbor Justice Center, Newport Beach	8
Harbor Justice Center, Newport Beach	10	North Justice Center	17
<b>2004 graduates</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>2005 graduates</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>January 2005-July 2005</b>			
Central Justice Center	31	<b>Total graduates</b>	
West Justice Center	7	<b>March 1995-July 2005</b>	<b>982</b>